

New name for the Bolivian Blackbird

by Peter E. Lowther

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Extensive recent work on relationships among the Icteridae, based largely on mitochondrial DNA sequencing, indicate that 5 species of brood parasitic cowbirds comprise a natural and holophyletic group that does not include the sixth “cowbird” species — the Bay-winged Cowbird, usually treated as *Molothrus badius* (Lanyon 1992, Lanyon 1994, Johnson & Lanyon 1999, Lanyon & Omland 1999, Omland *et al.* 1999, Searcy *et al.* 1999, AOU 2000). The genus *Molothrus* Swainson 1832 is then defined as encompassing only the brood parasitic cowbirds (see AOU 2000). The Bay-winged Cowbird has now been shown to be part of a South American icterid clade which has the Bolivian Blackbird *Oreopsar bolivianus* as its sister taxon (Johnson & Lanyon 1999; see also Lanyon & Omland 1999). Similarities between these two species also exist in behavioral traits and vocalizations that also support this indication of relationship (Jaramillo & Burke 1999); the latter authors even suggest “Baywing” as a common name to remove the connotations of common descent implied by the name “cowbird.”

The transfer of the Bay-winged Cowbird to *Oreopsar* (as *Oreopsar badius*) suggested by Johnson & Lanyon (1999) maintains *Molothrus* as monophyletic and recognizes the phylogenetic affinity of this species to the Bolivian Blackbird. However, including the Bay-winged Cowbird and Bolivian Blackbird in the same genus creates two nomenclatural problems. First, the genus *Agelaioides* Cassin, 1866, of which *badius* is the type species (see Friedmann 1929), has priority over *Oreopsar* Sclater, 1939. Second, when these two species are placed in the same genus an instance of secondary homonymy is created due to the existence of the race *Molothrus badius bolivianus* Hellmayr, 1917. Thus, a new specific name would be required for the Bolivian Blackbird. I suggest

Agelaioides oreopsar, nomen novum

for the Bolivian Blackbird, if it and the Bay-winged Cowbird are retained in the same genus. The proposed specific name, *oreopsar*, is used as a noun in apposition and retains some element of recognition and association to *Oreopsar bolivianus* by which name this taxon has always been known in its otherwise simple taxonomic history. The choice to retain these two species in *Agelaioides* is supported by phylogenetic analyses showing low divergence in cytochrome-b: Bolivian Blackbird and Bay-winged Cowbird show 6.5% divergence (S. M. Lanyon, pers. comm.), somewhat intermediate between divergence value of 4.9% among brood parasitic cowbirds and 9.1% between Bay-winged Cowbird and brood parasitic cowbirds (Johnson & Lanyon 1999).

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The correct name of the Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus* Ticehurst 1937, its identification and new evidence of its winter grounds

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The Iberian Chiffchaff, whether regarded as a subspecies of Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* or a separate species, has been known as both *brehmii* (Homeyer 1871) and *ibericus* Ticehurst 1937. The current 'official' name is the former; e.g. the Records Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union lists it as Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus brehmii* (Homeyer) (B O U 2001). However, I demonstrate below that the correct name should be *P. ibericus*.

In recent years, close study of the Iberian Chiffchaff has revealed reasons for it to be treated as a separate species, mainly due to the efforts of Marc Salomon (Salomon